



United States
Department of Agriculture

Forest Service

Shasta-Trinity
National Recreation Area

Shasta Unit

14225 Holiday Road
Redding, CA 96003
(530) 275-1587
(530) 242-5526 – TDD
www.fs.fed.us/r5/shastatrinity

File Code: 1950

Date: July 25, 2019

Dear Interested Party:

Thank you for your input during the scoping process for the proposed I-5 Corridor Fuels Reduction Project on the Shasta-Trinity National Forest. The preliminary Environmental Assessment (EA) is now available for the 30-day Comment Period. The EA describes and analyzes the environmental effects of the No Action Alternative, and two action alternatives: the Proposed Action and the Wildland Urban Interface Alternative.

The Proposed Action would treat vegetation on approximately 20,025 acres in the Shasta Lake Ranger District along portions of the Interstate Highway 5 corridor, the Gilman Road corridor, and lands northwest of and adjacent to Shasta Lake (see the EA for a project area map). Fuels treatments would be accomplished over approximately 20 years, primarily through application of prescribed fire, along with non-commercial thinning through manual treatments and mastication. No commercial timber harvest or new road construction would occur, and no machine piling would occur. Manual treatments would consist of hand thinning, pruning, and piling. Mechanized treatments would include understory and shrub mastication and the use of a low-pressure, rubber-tracked chipper, where feasible, to reduce the need for pile burning, especially near private residences. All piles would be burned or chipped. Prescribed fire applications would consist of underburning alone or would occur after manual or mechanical treatments are completed. A project-specific forest plan amendment would suspend guidelines for unburned dead and down material in two management prescription areas, Limited Roaded Motorized Recreation (II) and Roaded Recreation (III). This amendment is needed to allow forest plan standards and guidelines to conform to the ecological conditions of the area, while still achieving forest plan objectives and the project purpose.

The Environmental Assessment, which includes maps of the project area, is available for review on the Web at: www.fs.usda.gov/project/?project=30238, or a hard copy can be requested from the Project Team Lead listed below.

This project is subject to comment pursuant to 36 CFR 218, Subparts A and B. The Forest Service will accept written comments on the proposed project for 30 days following publication of the "opportunity to comment" legal notice in the Redding *Record Searchlight* newspaper. The publication date in the *Record Searchlight* (newspaper of record) is the exclusive means for calculating the comment period for this proposal. Commenters should not rely upon dates or timeframe information provided by any other source. It is the commenter's responsibility to ensure that comments are received by the Forest Service within the requisite 30-day timeframe (36 CFR 218.25(iii)). Anticipated date of publication is July 29, 2019. Only those who submit timely project-specific written comments during a public comment period are eligible to file an objection.

Scott Russell, Forest Supervisor, is the Responsible Official for the project. Comments may be mailed, hand-delivered or faxed to: Scott Russell; c/o Andrew Spain, I-5 Project Team Lead; Shasta Lake Ranger



Station; 14225 Holiday Road; Redding, CA 96003; fax (530) 275-1512. The office business hours for those submitting hand-delivered comments are 8:00 A.M. to 4:30 P.M. Monday through Friday, excluding holidays. Electronic comments must be submitted to STNF-comments-NRA@fs.fed.us. Acceptable formats for electronic submissions are an email message, plain text (.txt), rich text format (.rtf), Word (.doc), or portable document file (.pdf). Individuals and organizations wishing to be eligible to object must meet the information requirements of 36 CFR 218.

For additional information regarding this project, please contact Andrew Spain, Project Team Lead, at (530) 275-1587 or andrew.spain@usda.gov.

I appreciate your interest in the Shasta-Trinity National Forest and your input regarding this project.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to be 'AK' with a stylized flourish extending to the right.

ANDREW KENNEDY
Acting District Ranger